

NSC BRIEFING

9 March 1960

CUBA

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State Department review
completed

- I. US Embassy in Havana sees no hope that US will ever be able to establish a satisfactory relationship with any Cuban government dominated by Fidel Castro and his associates.
 - A. Embassy believes that government charge of US responsibility for ship explosion in Havana harbor, coupled with other hostile acts and mounting anti-US frenzy in government controlled mass media, indicate deliberate attempt to precipitate a crisis and to force US to take drastic measures.
- II. Anti-American feeling being whipped up by constant government propaganda, having some effect among Cubans previously cool to Castro diatribes.
- III. An incident could cause an outbreak of violence against American personnel and interests in this highly tense situation.
 - A. Embassy has invoked preparatory, limited warning phases of evacuation plan.

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- V. Abusive personal attacks on Pres Eisenhower and Secretary Herter by government controlled radio and press are continuing.
- A. Radio Mambi, the most vicious of the radio stations called President Eisenhower "slavery's spokesman, the champion of the threatening atom bomb...who had the effrontery to talk of democracy to exploited people and is now stained with the blood of Uruguayan students7..." Claimed the president's trip was to form a political cordon in LA to isolate Cuba.
 - B. Chilean President Alessandri was recently called a US puppet and Argentine President Frondizi "an unhappy comedian...ready to sell his soul to the US devil."
 - C. Radio Mambi also said newsmen had to be beaten by police in the countries the President visited to keep them from showing photographs of how the people repudiated Eisenhower.
 - D. Government mouthpiece, the daily Revolucion, editorially charged after the 4 March explosion that a favorite tactic of the US is to manufacture incidents in order to mobilize public opinion for an attack on another country. "This was the technique of the Alamo, the Maine, the Lusitania, and Pearl Harbor."
- VI. Castro and Guevara continue to condemn foreign and private investment. They will dominate the newly formed Central Planning Board, which will supervise and control every phase of Cuba's economy, particularly industry.
- A. Decision by US companies like Moa Bay Nickel and Bethlehem Steel to close operations this month will probably be followed rapidly by government intervention. Castro regime will increasingly dominate basic industries as well as agriculture and turn to USSR and European countries for technical advice and supplies.
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